



For Immediate Release
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On Tuesday, November 30, the Bureau of Land Management impounded nine cattle that were grazing in trespass on BLM managed lands in the Hay Coulee and Cow Creek areas of southern Blaine County.

The cattle are believed to belong to Harry and Carolyn Liddle and the impoundment action is in response to a long history of noncompliance with the terms and conditions of their previous grazing permit and unauthorized grazing use of public lands.

The Liddles lost their grazing permit for these BLM lands in July 2002, as a result of a well documented history of noncompliance involving 17 trespass violations since 1997. Additional reasons for canceling their grazing permit included noncompliance with annual operating plans, exceeding the carrying capacity, unauthorized grazing use of adjacent allotments assigned to neighboring ranches and delays installing and maintaining range improvements projects.

The Liddles have not indicated any willingness to change their pattern of unauthorized use, maintain their fences or control their livestock.

The impounded cattle have been taken to Chinook and are now the possession of the State Livestock Inspector. The Liddles can redeem the cattle if they pay the past grazing trespass fees and administrative costs associated with this action. If that does not happen, the cattle will be sold at auction and the proceeds applied to the same past fees and costs.

The BLM consulted with county legal authorities, elected officials at several levels and special interest organizations prior to impounding these cattle. Blaine County Sheriff Glen Huestis and State Livestock Inspector Dan Campbell (along with several additional riders) assisted with this impoundment.

“Impounding livestock is always a last resort for BLM and we use it only when all other means of resolving a problem have been exhausted. The continuing grazing abuse that led to this action is creating resource impacts and reflects poorly on those public land grazing permittees who do a good job of managing their livestock,” offered Acting Lewistown Field Manager, Mike Stewart.

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“We certainly appreciate the assistance provided by the Sheriff Huestis, Inspector Campbell and his additional riders. They were a great help to our staff in the field,” Stewart added.

The BLM will continue impounding trespass livestock owned by the Liddles as needed to prevent further resource damage to public lands.

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